

Revised
Gaithersburg Day Laborer Task Force Meeting
February 7, 2006, 7:30 p.m.
Casey Community Center, Room A

I. Approval of Summary

A motion was made to approve the 1-31-06 summary of the Gaithersburg Day Laborer meeting. The motion passed.

II. Continue Review of Task Force Work Plan/Outline

Charge #4

The task force reviewed Charge #4 (Develop specific criteria relating to a location for a new day laborer center that would be funded and operated by Montgomery County). The task force identified additional research areas and Chair Prentiss Searles offered to update the spreadsheet to incorporate these additions. The updated spreadsheet for Charge #4 will be included as part of this summary. A subcommittee, led by Michael Wiencek, was formed to research and report on Charge #4. One task force member stressed the importance of identifying the center as a Gaithersburg Center rather than an Upcounty Center. He noted that other jurisdictions should be undertaking efforts similar to the ones this task force had been charged with in order to deal with issues in regard to their respective locales.

Charge #1

The task force reviewed reports written in response to Charge #1 (Review the information collected by the Ad Hoc Committee as a starting point to identifying the issues related to this topic). Two versions of the report were presented to the task force for review. Both versions provided background information on the day laborer issue and a summary of the meeting with representatives of the Ad Hoc Committee. The lengthier version (12 pages) included, as an attachment, the CASA Concept Paper and featured Ad Hoc information in a question and answer format. Conversely, the abbreviated version (3 pages) incorporated the information obtained in the question and answer session into the overall summary and lacked any attachments.

A motion was made to accept the original 12-page report with the following amendments:

- **Move the bulleted section summarizing the Work Groups activity to the front of the report.**
- **Retain the CASA Concept Paper attachment**
- **Add as attachments:**

- **Copy of City Manager's Presentation to the Mayor and City Council**
- **Pastor Piel's comments**
- **Ad Hoc Committee meeting notes provided by Joe Heiney-Gonzalez**

The motion passed.

It was noted that the final report, due the Mayor and City Council on April 1, 2006, would most likely be addressed at the April 10 Mayor and City Council Work Session. Barbara Fahey agreed to compile the final report.

III. Reports from Subcommittees

Subcommittee A: Build a Day Laborer Center

The task force was presented two different versions of a survey to use in interviewing staff and users of established day laborer centers. The Day Laborer Site Visit Work Sheet was designed to follow an outline form while the Standardized Data Collection Form featured a question and answer format. As the first center visit was reportedly scheduled for tomorrow morning, the task force needed to settle on which version would be used. A discussion ensued and members ultimately chose the Day Laborer Site Visit Work Sheet.

Subcommittee A leader Cathy Drzyzgula passed around a sign-up sheet for upcoming center visits.

IV. Review Draft of Report "Consequences of Doing Nothing"

Dan Searles, leader of Subcommittee E (researching the ramifications of doing nothing) distributed a draft of the report titled, "The Consequences of Doing Nothing." It was reported that everyone on subcommittee E as well as some task force members provided input and that an effort was made to capture everyone's ideas. Review of the report generated a great deal of discussion in which a variety of views were expressed, including allegations that local government action could make the problem worse. It was noted that if the consequences of doing something returned a non-desirable result, than doing nothing was a viable option. One task force member suggested holding the final approval on Subcommittee E's report in abeyance as the task force may gain better insight in the coming weeks. The suggestion was countered on the grounds that the report represents research of information currently available. It was suggested that the report be dated and that any additional information be submitted as an addendum for consideration of inclusion based on task force review.

In order to gain perspective on the amount of work to be completed and the amount of time available in which to complete it, Chair Prentiss Searles suggested that the group briefly suspend this conversation to review a Draft Work Plan. The

committee reviewed the plan. No changes were recommended. The committee then continued their discussion on Subcommittee E's report.

In regard to the content, it was suggested that references to both genders be included. Additionally, one task force member took issue with the statement under the "Conclusion" section that read, "(The immigration laws make it illegal to hire undocumented immigrants, except for periodic domestic service.)" The member noted that it was legal to hire workers for periodic day labor work and as an employer he was legally allowed to expense up to \$5000 per year for that purpose.

One member asked if the intent of the report was to recommend creation of a day laborer center. The member interpreted the report as supporting the center and specifically referenced the last line of the report which stated, "doing nothing is not an option." It was felt that clarification was needed to acknowledge that doing something can include not having a day laborer center. Subcommittee E leader Dan Searles stated that the report was not intended to show preference for any option. He noted that he tried to outline the problem and purposefully steered clear of including any recommendations.

Concern was expressed that the options being researched did not provide for a non-center option. It was noted that Option B (Pass ordinances to prevent soliciting jobs from parking lots, public streets and sidewalks) if used as the sole method of managing the issue, would represent a non-center option.

Chair Prentiss Searles reminded task force members that the purpose of the subcommittee option reports was to describe options A, B, C, D, and E. The task force would then make recommendations based on what they learned from the research of options A, B, C, D, and E.

A suggestion was made to vote on the final report next week and to allow for the inclusion of any additional information as addendums. Furthermore, it was noted that a minority opinion could be included along with a vote count. In regard to minority opinions, one task force member stated that they didn't have a problem with a minority report but cautioned against having 15 minority reports, in essence allowing each task force member to draft his/her own report.

It was decided that in preparation for next week's final vote on the Option E Report, task force members would review the report using "track changes" to alter or add any information. It was stressed that all changes needed to be submitted to Dan Searles by Friday. He would then present the new information to the task force for review and voting into the final report. It was further decided that additional information deemed worthy of inclusion but discovered after the report was finalized could be included as an addendum. To be considered for inclusion, addendums would be submitted by task force members and voted on by the full task force.

V. Old Business

A. Procedural Discussion – Individuals to Be Invited to Provide Input at Meetings

The committee expressed differing views in regard to the manner in which additional persons, such as contractors and homeowners, should be allowed to provide input to the task force. One member indicated that a contractor and two individuals stated their willingness to address the committee in regard to their use of day laborers. Concern was expressed in regard to the amount of time required versus the amount of usable data that could be obtained, especially from a relatively small sampling. Another member reminded the task force of their initial agreement to accept only written submissions. Another member stressed the vitally important role that contractors would play in the ultimate success of a day laborer center and reminded the task force that the needs of these contractors had not yet been identified or addressed. Furthermore, it was noted that the information that could be provided by contractors was crucial to subcommittee A. However, there was concern that it would be difficult to get the word out to contractors and get enough participation for the sampling to be indicative of a larger population. Acknowledging the benefit that the information could provide versus the time constrictions under which the task force was operating, Chair Prentiss Searles suggested that task force members compile a list of question for contractors and individuals who use the services of day laborers. These questions could then be asked of users of the existing day laborer centers that the task force was already scheduled to visit.

A motion was made to have Subcommittee A gather information regarding contractor use of day laborers during their center visits and to report back to the full task force. The motion passed.

VI. New Business

None

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.